

ROUTING

Top Secret

181

(Security Classification)

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2			
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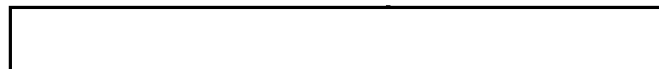
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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Monday May 24, 1976

CI NIDC 76-122C



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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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Approved For Release 2007/03/06 : CIA-RDP79T00975A028900010040-7

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Monday May 24, 1976.

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[REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose
of informing senior US officials.

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LEBANON

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[] The de facto cease-fire that settled over much of Lebanon last week held through the weekend. There were several incidents in Beirut and the eastern city of Zahlah; however, both Christians and Muslims seem prepared to give president-elect Sarkis more time to work out a new truce proposal.

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[] The main problem holding up implementation of a formal cease-fire apparently involves the selection of individuals to participate in "roundtable" settlement talks. Leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt wants to exclude traditional leaders and seat only "fighters." Jumblatt does not consider himself a traditional politician and would like to ensure that his leftist coalition--composed of many small militias--has a numerical edge at the negotiating table.

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[] Jumblatt would also like to exclude his long-standing opponent on the Christian side, Phalanges Party leader Pierre Jumayyil. Jumayyil's son Bashir, who has been impatient to take over from his father, has played into Jumblatt's hands by publicly denouncing the prospect of "tribal" bargaining. His remark was, in effect, a bid for his father's seat at the negotiations.

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[] Some Lebanese politicians are considering a phased approach that would involve initial talks among Jumblatt's so-called fighters and a second forum for established politicians.

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[] Debate over the participants evidently has provoked warnings from Interior Minister Shamun that resumption of negotiations must await President Franjiah's resignation. Shamun

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and other Christian leaders intend to use the threat of withholding the President's resignation to counter any attempts by Jumblatt to gain an advantage at the talks. This kind of maneuvering could, as in the past, end with one side resorting to new violence.

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[] French President Giscard's offer to send French troops to Lebanon has elicited predictably mixed reaction from the Lebanese. Jumblatt and also Prime Minister Karami flatly rejected the offer, comparing it to French efforts to dominate Lebanon in the 19th century. The Christians have generally reacted favorably, although Shamun--once an outspoken advocate of Western peace-keeping assistance--gave the proposal only half-hearted endorsement.

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[] Since the beginning of the troubles in Lebanon, the French have made clear their willingness to act as mediators, hoping that France's historic ties in the area would make them acceptable to all concerned. Opposition from Jumblatt and Karami, however, and, more importantly, Syria's reluctance to share its guardian role in Lebanon rule out serious consideration of Giscard's offer at this time.

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[] Syria's policy in Lebanon was sharply criticized by the Egyptian government this weekend in what may have been an effort by Cairo to scuttle Saudi- and Kuwaiti-sponsored attempts to reconcile Syrian and Egyptian differences. An official Egyptian spokesman accused the Syrians of conspiring with Lebanese Christians to partition Lebanon and to destroy the Palestinian movement.

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[] The spokesman also indirectly accused Damascus of facilitating Israeli efforts to rearm the Christians; most Arabs--including the Palestinians--have carefully avoided making propaganda capital of Israel's aid to the Christians out of concern that this would only complicate efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis.

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[] Egypt's blast at Damascus came just before President Sadat met with Saudi and Kuwaiti officials attempting to reschedule the reconciliation meeting between Syria and Egypt that was to have been held in Riyadh last Wednesday. []

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USSR - MIDDLE EAST

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[] Soviet Premier Kosygin's visit to the Middle East this week appears to be a major bid to shore up Moscow's shaky position there.

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[] Iraq announced yesterday that Kosygin will arrive in Baghdad on Saturday. Press sources in Damascus said that the Soviet Premier will spend four days in Syria early next month. The Soviets are also apparently arranging for him to meet with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat. This will be the first visit to the Middle East by any of the top three Soviet leaders since the 1973 Middle East war.

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[] Soviet relations with Iraq and Syria have been cool, and Kosygin will seek to refurbish them in order to retain Moscow's principal remaining footholds in the region. The Soviets have been unhappy with Iraq's growing economic and military relations with Western Europe. In recent weeks Moscow has been particularly apprehensive over the possibility that Syria will improve its relations with Egypt and begin discussions with the US on a Middle East settlement.

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[] Moscow has also been unhappy with the way Baghdad and Damascus have been treating their communist parties, their failure to support Soviet calls for reconvening the Geneva conference, and the absence of any firm denunciations from them of Cairo's abrogation of the Soviet-Egyptian treaty.

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[] Kosygin's discussions will be complicated by new signs of friction among Moscow's Middle East friends. Relations between Iraq and Syria--never very good--have deteriorated recently as a result of Iraq's cessation of oil shipments to Syria. Arafat is concerned that one aim of Damascus' intervention in Lebanon is Syrian control of the Palestinian movement.

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[] The Soviets have sought to avoid direct entanglement in these disputes in order to avoid choosing among the parties. Kosygin may adopt a more activist role in an effort to alleviate some of these frictions, since they have pushed some of the antagonists into seeking support from Egypt. []

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USSR - WEST GERMANY

25X1 [] Moscow on Saturday issued an unusual formal government statement criticizing "certain forces" in West Germany for undermining better ties with the USSR.

25X1 [] Although specific references were limited to West German - Soviet issues, the scope of the document was broad enough to constitute a rebuttal to all Western critics of "detente." The only mention of the US, however, was a charge that West German opponents of a relaxation of international tension were working "hand-in-glove" with their "soul mates" in the US and other capitalist countries.

25X1 [] The statement seemed aimed at recent criticisms of the USSR by West German Foreign Minister Genscher and by the opposition. It noted that questioning of Bonn's Eastern policy is not confined to any one political party.

25X1 [] The statement turned aside a veritable catalogue of Western criticisms of "detente." It rejected as false contentions that Moscow alone is benefiting from a relaxation of tension and that the USSR is embarked on expansionism and ideological colonialism. The USSR denied that its military buildup is exceeding its defensive needs, said it has no intention of attacking anyone, and restated Soviet interest in disarmament.

25X1 [] The document also attacked attempts to use "detente" to seek changes in Soviet domestic policy and noted that relaxation of tension does not preclude Soviet support for "liberation" movements.

25X1 [] The statement reminded the West Germans that recent years have seen a sharp growth in bilateral trade with the USSR and that better relations with Moscow have enabled Bonn to improve its ties with Eastern Europe. Finally, Moscow called on West German critics of "detente" to define their country's alternatives. []

RHODESIA

25X1 [] An insurgent attack this weekend on one of Rhodesia's two major road links with South Africa is further evidence of

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efforts by the guerrillas to step up their activities in south-eastern Rhodesia. The incident follows a similar attack late last month on the other main road to the border. After that incident, Salisbury began using armed convoys to protect civilian road traffic.

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[] Two cars were damaged on the road that runs from Bulawayo, Rhodesia's second largest city, to Beitbridge, the main border-crossing point. Armed convoys are being extended to this route also.

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[] The incident points up the difficulty Salisbury faces in coping with small insurgent bands that infiltrate the area from Mozambique. Since the incident in April, Salisbury has moved additional forces into the area and has conducted some operational sweeps. Thus far, the insurgents appear to be successfully avoiding contact with the Rhodesian forces.

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[REDACTED] There have been further clashes between rival guerrilla factions. According to the US embassy in Dar es Salaam, five or six people were killed this week when fighting broke out at a guerrilla training camp in Tanzania. [REDACTED]

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ETHIOPIA-SUDAN

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[REDACTED] //Sudan is taking defensive measures as its fears heighten that the Ethiopian government's offensive against secessionist guerrillas in Eritrea Province will lead to fighting between the two countries.//

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[REDACTED] //According to the Sudanese military attache in Addis Ababa, conflict between the two is likely because of Ethiopia's belief that the Sudanese are supporting the Eritrean rebels. He has stated that Sudan is now considered by Addis Ababa to be its "number-one enemy."//

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[REDACTED] The US embassy in Khartoum reports that the commander of armored forces has stated that tanks will not participate in the independence day parade on Tuesday, suggesting that Ethiopian reports of tank transfers to the border area may be correct. According to the embassy, rumors are circulating in the capital that 2,000 troops from the Sudanese contingent in Egypt have been moved to the border region.

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[REDACTED] //Khartoum is not likely to initiate military action against Ethiopia. Sudanese officials have indicated that they intend to protect the country's territorial integrity, however, and they are unlikely to tolerate violations of Sudanese airspace such as occurred last February.//

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[REDACTED] //Ethiopia will probably try to avoid border violations, but some may still occur.// [REDACTED]

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ANGOLA-USSR

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[REDACTED] Angolan Prime Minister Nascimento left Luanda yesterday on his planned trip to the USSR, according to an official Angolan announcement. He is accompanied by Defense Minister Carreira and several high-ranking officials who will stop over in Nigeria before continuing on to Moscow.

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[REDACTED] We have no specific details on the subjects to be discussed in Moscow, but Soviet military and economic assistance and security conditions throughout Angola will certainly be high on the agenda.

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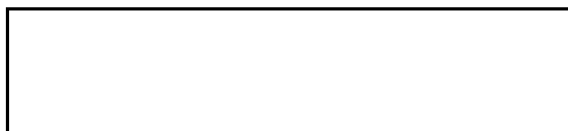
[REDACTED] Soviet officials probably will query Nascimento closely on the state of factional rivalry currently troubling the Angolan government. [REDACTED]

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SYRIA

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[] The Syrian Baath Party this weekend delivered to "friendly parties" throughout the Arab world a note defending Syrian policy in Lebanon. The action presumably resulted from a review of Damascus' Lebanon policy carried out by a joint meeting of the party's Syrian and international leadership last week.

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[] The note predictably praises Syria's actions in attempting to foil the "imperialist-Zionist plot" in Lebanon, and defends Damascus' efforts to halt the fighting and work toward a peaceful solution. This is a continuation of recently increased criticism of the US, and of the familiar attacks on those who Damascus suspects to be arming the warring factions.

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[] Like other Syrian propaganda over the past two or three weeks, the note states that Syria is in fact working to defend Palestinian interests in Lebanon and in the Middle East generally.

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[] Damascus has become increasingly defensive as a result of growing domestic and foreign criticism of its treatment of independent Palestinian groups in Lebanon.

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[] The brief account of the party statement broadcast by Syria's government-controlled radio provides no hint that Damascus is planning more extensive military action in Lebanon. This cannot be taken as evidence that no changes are planned, however; a similar meeting of the party leadership in January gave no indication that President Asad had elicited an endorsement of a major increase in Syrian military activity in Lebanon.

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ARGENTINA

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[redacted] //The junta is making inroads against Argentina's terrorist movement/

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[redacted] The junta, badly in need of a success against the insurgents, will probably trumpet these signs of progress in an effort to mollify its right-wing military critics. It is still too early, however, for the junta to be greatly encouraged. Terrorist attacks continue, despite signs that the insurgent groups are retrenching. [redacted]

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[redacted] terrorist informants are numerous and well-placed.

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[redacted] The People's Revolutionary Army claimed credit for the killing last week of four Uruguayans, including two former congressmen who had been living in exile in Buenos Aires. It is not clear, however, whether the terrorist group was actually involved in the murders or whether the killings were the result of an operation by a right-wing death squad. [redacted]

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PORTUGAL

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[] A Portuguese Communist front organization is making efforts to put President Costa Gomes on the ballot for the presidential election on June 27. Although given little chance of winning, the left-leaning President could try to use his candidacy as a lever to secure an influential position in the next government.

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[] Costa Gomes has denied that he seeks to continue as chief of state, but a close aide has reported that he is coming under increasing pressure to run. On Wednesday a 72-member campaign committee dominated by the Portuguese Democratic Movement, a Communist front, was set up to promote his candidacy; Costa Gomes' supporters have said they have already obtained the 7,500 signatures necessary for him to enter the race.

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[] The Communists have nominated a candidate of their own--party central committee member Octavio Pato--but a Costa Gomes candidacy could further the party's aims by adding a prestigious name to the ballot to siphon off votes and deny army Chief of Staff General Eanes a first-ballot majority.

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[] Eanes has launched his campaign with a platitudinous statement pledging to institutionalize democracy in Portugal and to guarantee national independence, the unity of the armed forces, and rigorous adherence to the constitution.

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[] The dour infantry officer appeared ill at ease at his first campaign appearance on Wednesday, and his performance reportedly was unimpressive. Seeking to avoid a personality contest with his closest rival, the popular Prime Minister Azevedo, Eanes stressed his strong party and military support.

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[] Azevedo has chosen to play upon Eanes' obvious weaknesses by stressing the importance of the candidates' personalities, qualifications, and record of public service.

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[] Azevedo appears to be keying his campaign to the center and right, while at the same time remaining the least objectionable of the leading contenders from the leftists' point of view. He reportedly hopes for a second-ballot runoff with Eanes, expecting that the additional votes of the Communists and other leftists will tip the balance in his favor.

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TURKEY

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[REDACTED] The deputy chief of the Turkish general staff, Kenan Evren, will begin a visit to the USSR on Wednesday at the invitation of his Soviet counterpart, according to press reports from Ankara.

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[REDACTED] The Evren trip is part of a broader exchange of visits by Turkish and Soviet political, military, and commercial leaders aimed at improving bilateral relations. Later this year, for example, Turkish President Koruturk will probably return Soviet Premier Kosygin's visit to Turkey last December.

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[REDACTED] Evren's visit will also provide the Turks an opportunity to apply some pressure on Washington and other NATO capitals and to assess at first hand prospects for acquiring some Soviet military equipment.

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[REDACTED] His trip will enable Moscow to pursue its continuing low-key efforts to take advantage of recent strains in the US-Turkish relationship.

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[REDACTED] The Soviets reportedly first extended their invitation to Evren late last year, but it was rejected at that time on instructions from Turkish Prime Minister Demirel. The invitation was apparently repeated and accepted in January.

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[REDACTED]

UNITED NATIONS - SYRIA

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[REDACTED] /UN Secretary General Waldheim plans to visit Damascus tomorrow to urge Syria to agree to extend the mandate of the UN peace-keeping force in the Golan Heights.//

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[REDACTED] //Israel had earlier agreed to extend the mandate--which expires the end of this month--an additional six months, but is now threatening to withdraw its agreement if Syria attempts to attach political conditions to its renewal.//

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[REDACTED]

25X1 [] Last November, Syria agreed to renew the mandate only on condition that the Security Council hold a full debate on the Palestinian issue. Damascus has never said whether it would demand further political concessions this time. In recent weeks, primarily because of its preoccupation with events in Lebanon, Damascus has seemed to be seeking a face-saving device to justify renewing the mandate rather than cause another full-scale Council debate on Middle East issues.

25X1 JAPAN

25X1 [] The upper house of the Japanese Diet today approved the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by a heavy majority. The action completed parliamentary ratification, which had been delayed several years by Japanese rightists. []

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